



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/021,809 – Conf. # 2099
				Filing Date	October 30, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	Uyen T. Ho
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	101896-276 (DEP-5241)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
RS		**US Appl. 10/165,991	6-10-2002 (filing date)	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	** (this application is a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,159,179, enclosed herewith; copy of reissue application not enclosed)
RS		**US Appl. 10/899,707	7-26-2004 (filing date)	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	** (this application is a divisional of U.S. Publ. No. 2003/0083689, previously submitted; copy of divisional application not enclosed)
RS		US 2002/0123668	09-05-2002	STEPHEN RITLAND	
RS		US 2003/0187431	10-02-2003	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>4</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
RS		Sofamor Danek, "MED MicroEndoscopic Discectomy System" (1997)	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

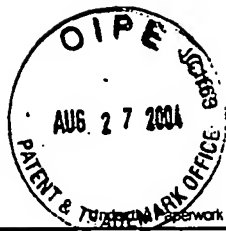
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	10/19/04
-----------------------	--	--------------------	----------



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0851-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the American Reduction Act of 1996, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)			<b>Complete if Known</b>		
			Application Number	10/021,809 – Conf. # 2099	
			Filing Date	October 30, 2001	
			First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson	
			Art Unit	3731	
Examiner Name	Uyen T. Ho				
Sheet	1	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-276 (DEP-5241)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (# known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
DA	AA	US-2003/0220689	11-27-2003	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AB	US-2003/0238447	12-25-2003	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AC	US-2002/0143235	10-03-2002	JAMES J. PAGLIUCA	
	AD	US-2004/0106997	06-03-2004	ROBERT E. LIEBERSON	
	AE	US-2003/0083689	05-01-2003	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	
	AF	US-2002/0082695	06-27-2002	CARSTEN NEUMANN	
	AG	US-2002/0077632	06-20-2002	PAUL M. TSOU	
	AH	US-2002/0058948	05-16-2002	YVAN ARLETTAZ	
	AI	US-2002/0049368	04-25-2002	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AJ	US-2001/0027320	10-04-2001	RICK SASSO	
	AK	US-2002/0022764	02-21-2002	MAURICE M. SMITH	
	AL	US-2002/0016592	02-07-2002	CHARLES L. BRANCH	
	AM	US-2001/0012942	08-09-2001	BRADLEY T. ESTES	
	AN	US-2002/0011135	01-31-2002	WAYNE HALL	
	AO	RE 36,020	12-29-1998	ROBERT R. MOORE	
	AP	US-569,839	10-20-1896	J. T. R. ROELOFFS	
	AQ	US-3,470,872	10-07-1969	H. R. GRIESHABER	
	AR	US-3,875,595	04-08-1975	EDWARD C. FRONING	
	AS	US-4,232,660	11-11-1980	ROBERT L. COLES	
	AT	US-4,440,168	04-03-1984	MARK G. WARREN	
	AU	US-4,481,947	11-13-1984	MARTIN H. CHESTER	
	AV	US-4,545,374	10-08-1985	ROBERT E. JACOBSON	
	AW	US-4,573,448	03-04-1986	PARVIZ KAMBIN	
	AX	US-4,617,922	10-21-1986	CALVIN GRIGGS	
	AY	US-4,620,460	11-04-1986	FRANK GONZALES, JR.	
	AZ	US-4,736,738	04-12-1988	MATEJ LIPOVSEK	
	BA	US-4,747,394	05-31-1988	ROBERT S. WATANABE	
	BB	US-4,798,111	01-17-1989	CHARLES D. CHEESEMAN	
	BC	US-4,803,976	02-14-1989	ROBERT FRIGG	
	BD	US-4,817,587	04-04-1989	WOODROW W. JANESE	
	BE	US-4,882,958	11-28-1989	RICHARD L. MCNEELY	
	BF	US-5,035,232	07-30-1991	THEODOR LUTZE	
	BG	US-5,048,379	09-17-1991	ROBERT E. GRAMERA	
	BH	US-5,052,373	10-01-1991	GARY K. MICHELSON	
	BI	US-5,084,043	01-28-1992	PETER S. HERTZMANN	
	BJ	US-5,098,435	03-24-1992	DENIS P. STEDNITZ	
	BK	US-5,133,720	07-28-1992	ALEX M. GREENBERG	
	BL	US-5,135,525	08-04-1992	JUERGEN BISCOPING	
	BM	US-5,148,724	09-22-1992	GARY R. REXFORD	
	BN	US-5,195,541	03-23-1993	THEODORE G. OBENCHAIN	
	BO	US-5,275,611	01-04-1994	ROBERT S. BEHL	
	BP	US-5,292,309	03-08-1994	ROBERT A. VAN TASSEL	
DA	BQ	US-5,303,694	04-19-1994	W. E. MICHAEL MIKHAIL	
Examiner Signature	<i>Uyen T. Ho</i>			Date Considered	10/19/04



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>			<b>Complete if Known</b>		
			Application Number	10/021,809 – Conf. # 2099	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)			Filing Date	October 30, 2001	
			First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson	
			Art Unit	3731	
			Examiner Name	Uyen T. Ho	
Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-276 (DEP-5241)

BR	US-5,312,360	05-17-1994	ROBERT S. BEHL
BS	US-5,356,413	10-18-1994	MARTINS ET AL.
BT	US-5,363,841	11-15-1994	WESLEY L. COKER
BU	US-5,431,651	06-11-1995	E. MARLOWE GOBLE
BV	US-5,439,464	08-08-1995	DAVID E. SHAPIRO
BW	US-5,512,038	04-30-1996	DARRELL D. O'NEAL
BX	US-5,601,550	02-11-1997	RENE D. ESSER
BY	US-5,687,739	11-18-1997	WILLIAM E. MCPHERSON
BZ	US-5,716,415	02-10-1998	ARTHUR D. STEFFEE
CA	US-5,743,853	04-28-1998	ROBERT A. LAUDERDALE
CB	US-5,746,720	05-05-1998	ALBERT E. STODDER, JR.
CC	US-5,766,221	06-16-1998	THEODORE V. BENDEREV
CD	US-5,816,257	10-06-1998	ALBERT K. CHIN
CE	US-5,851,207	12-22-1998	MORRIS DANIEL CESARONE
CF	US-5,882,344	03-16-1999	ALBERT E. STODDER, JR.
CG	US-5,885,300	03-23-1999	YASUAKI TOKUHASHI
CH	US-5,891,147	04-06-1999	PETER A. MOSKOVITZ
CI	US-5,895,352	04-20-1999	JEFFREY B. KLEINER
CJ	US-5,895,390	04-20-1999	MICHAEL C. MORAN
CK	US-5,897,593	04-27-1999	DOUGLAS W. KOHRS
CL	US-5,899,901	05-04-1999	JEFFREY KEITH MIDDLETON
CM	US-5,902,231	05-11-1999	KEVIN T. FOLEY
CN	US-5,913,818	06-22-1999	FRED H. CO
CO	US-5,928,139	07-27-1999	TIBOR B. KOROS
CP	US-5,944,658	08-31-1999	TIBOR B. KOROS
CQ	US-5,967,970	10-19-1999	MICHAEL A. COWAN
CR	US-5,971,920	10-26-1999	GUNTHER PETER NAGEL
CS	US-5,996,447	12-07-1999	DAVID BAYOUTH
CT	US-6,007,487	12-28-1999	KEVIN T. FOLEY
CU	US-6,010,520	01-04-2000	C. PHILLIP PATTISON
CV	US-6,063,088	05-16-2000	CHARLES J. WINSLOW
CW	US-6,080,155	06-27-2000	GARY KARLIN MICHELSON
CX	US-6,081,741	06-27-2000	J. MARCUS HOLLIS
CY	US-6,083,225	07-04-2000	CHARLES J. WINSLOW
CZ	US-6,113,602	09-05-2000	PAUL M. SAND
DA	US-6,120,434	09-19-2000	SHUICHI KIMURA
DB	US-6,120,506	09-19-2000	DOUGLAS W. KOHRS
DC	US-6,152,871	11-28-2000	KEVIN T. FOLEY
DD	US-6,156,006	12-05-2000	IVO BROSENS
DE	US-6,162,236	12-19-2000	TOSHIHIKO OSADA
DF	US-6,176,823	01-23-2001	KEVIN T. FOLEY
DG	US-6,197,002	03-06-2001	FRANCIS PETERSON
DH	US-6,206,826	03-27-2001	HALLETT MATHEWS
DI	US-6,206,885	03-27-2001	FATHALI GHAREMANI
DJ	US-6,214,004	04-10-2001	WESLEY L. COKER
DK	US-6,224,597	05-01-2001	WESLEY L. COKER
DL	US-6,224,608	05-01-2001	MICHAEL CICOLELLA


Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	10/17/01
--------------------	--------------------	-----------------	----------



PTO/SB/D8a/b (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2005. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

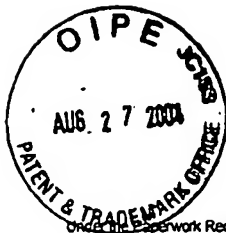
<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)			<b>Complete if Known</b>		
			Application Number	10/021,809 – Conf. # 2099	
			Filing Date	October 30, 2001	
			First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson	
			Art Unit	3731	
			Examiner Name	Uyen T. Ho	
Sheet	3	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-276 (DEP-5241)

DM	US-6,245,072	06-12-2001	THOMAS ZDEBLICK
DN	US-6,258,097	07-10-2001	KEVIN COOK
DO	US-6,267,763	07-31-2001	SALVATORE CASTRO
DP	US-6,270,498	08-07-2001	GARY KARLIN MICHAELSON
DQ	US-6,283,966	09-04-2001	RODNEY L. HOUFBURG
DR	US-6,287,313	09-11-2001	RICK SASSO
DS	US-6,296,609	10-02-2001	SALVADOR A. BRAU
DT	US-6,312,432	11-06-2001	JOHN W. LEPPELMEIER
DU	US-6,342,057	01-29-2002	MICHAEL BRACE
DV	US-6,348,058	02-19-2002	TONY MELKENT
DW	US-6,354,176	03-12-2002	WILLIAM F. NORDLIN
DX	US-6,371,959	04-16-2002	MICHAEL E. TRICE
DY	US-6,371,968	04-16-2002	TAKAHIRO KOGASAKA
DZ	US-6,418,821	07-16-2002	MASAHICO YAMAKAWA
EA	US-6,428,472	08-06-2002	KENT HAAS
EB	US-6,461,330	10-08-2002	KUNIIHIKO MIYAGI
EC	US-6,520,907	02-18-2003	KEVIN T. FOLEY
ED	US-6,530,926	03-11-2003	THOMAS W. DAVISON
EE	US-6,540,756	04-01-2003	THOMAS F. VAUGHAN
EF	US-6,692,434	02-17-2004	STEPHEN RITLAND
EG	US-D433,296	11-07-2000	MASAHICO YAMAKAWA
EH	US-D438,074	02-27-2001	DONALD E. MARR
EI	US-D361,381	08-15-1995	TIBOR KOROS
EJ	US-D436,513	01-23-2001	MASAHICO YAMAKAWA
EK	US-D466,766	12-10-2002	GARRY MARTY
EL	US-D399,955	10-20-1998	TIBOR KOROS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>2</sup>	Number <sup>3</sup> -Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)				
	EM	WO	02/060330 A1	08-08-2002	RITLAND		
	EN	WO	00/18306 A1	04-06-2000	RITLAND		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	10/19/04
-----------------------	--	--------------------	----------



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO		<b>Complete If Known</b>			
		Application Number	10/021,809 – Conf. # 2099		
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	October 30, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson		
		Art Unit	3731		
		Examiner Name	Uyen T. Ho		
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-276 (DEP-5241)

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
[Signature]	EO	WOLFHARD CASPAR, <i>Technique of Microsurgery, in MICROSURGERY OF THE LUMBAR SPINE: PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES IN SPINE SURGERY</i> 105-122 (Aspen Publications, 1990)	
	EP	Web page, <a href="http://www.brainlab.com">http://www.brainlab.com</a> , April 2, 2002	
	EQ	KAMBIN, PARVIZ, "Arthroscopic Microdiscectomy: Minimal Intervention in Spinal Surgery", National Library of Medicine, 1991 p 67-100, Urban & Schwarzenberg	
	ER	SCHAFER, JOHNATHAN et al., "Percutaneous Posterolateral Lumbar Discectomy and decompression with a 6.9 Millimeter Cannula", The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, 1991, pp 822-831	
	ES	SAVITZ, MARTIN, "Same-Day Microsurgical Arthroscopic Latera-Approach Laser-Assisted (SMALL) Fluoroscopic Discectomy", Journal of Neurosurgery, June 1994, pp 1039-1045	
	ET	KAMBIN, PARVIZ, "Percutaneous Posterolateral Discectomy", Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Section II, pp 145-154	
	EU	Sofamor Danek Video Systems Brochure	
	EV	HILTON, DONALD et al., "Medtronic Sofamor Danek METRX Microdiscectomy Surgical Technique Brochure", 2001	
[Signature]	EW	WILTSE, "New Uses and Refinements of the Paraspinal Approach to the Lumbar Spine", Spine, Vol. 13 Number 6 1988, pp. 696-706	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

1351212.1

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	10/19/04
--------------------	--	-----------------	----------